

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

25X1

TOPIC Finsterwalde Airfield

25X1	EVALUATION	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT	25X1	DATE PREPARED	17 July 1952
REFERENCES	25X1		
PAGES	6	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	2 - one sketch on ditto
REMARKS			

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1. Between 7:30 and 9 a.m. on 13 May 1952, three type-27 jet bombers with extended landing gears made local flights at the Finsterwalde airfield. The weather was unfavorable, and the cloud base was at about 200 meters. Most of the flights lasted 6 minutes, some of them 12 to 15 minutes. Flying was discontinued, probably because visibility decreased to about 1,500 meters. From 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on 17 May, several type-27 planes were observed making local flights. The broken cloud ceiling was at an altitude of 300 to 500 meters. Two of the planes involved flew with retracted landing gears and several times disappeared in the clouds. Between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on 19 May, three type-27 jet bombers conducted flying. The 5/10 overcast was at an altitude of 800 meters. Flying activity included:

Take-offs	Landings	Type of Plane Involved
	4:25 p.m. 4:27 p.m.	type-27 type-27
4:50 p.m.	4:57 p.m. 4:52 p.m.	type-27 [redacted] 25X1 high-wing monoplane approaching from the north that lands almost daily about this time
5:01 p.m. 5:12 p.m. 5:27 p.m.	5:07 p.m. 5:18 p.m.	type-27 [redacted] 25X1 by 5:50 p.m., this plane had not returned

Between 7 and 7:20 p.m., 6 jet bombers, 2 Pe-2s and 2 B-25s were observed at the installation.

2. Between 9 and 10:30 a.m. on 21 May, several type-27 planes took off for six-minute flights. A DC-3 also took off during this time. This plane was fitted with a blister shaped like a swallow's nest on the under side of its fuselage in line with the trailing edges of its wings. This DC-3, which landed after 10 minutes, was observed over Finsterwalde on the following day. (1) Throughout 22 May, three type-27 jet bombers made local flights. About 3 p.m. a plane, [redacted] believed to have been an A-20 type plane, previously not observed at the field, took off. Between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on 30 May, type-27 jet bombers practiced local flights with retracted landing gears. Three type-27 planes were observed practicing formation flying from

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2 to 2:30 and 4:30 and 5 p.m. Throughout the day, no more than three planes were observed aloft at the same time. On 1 June, 8 jet bombers, 1 B-25 and 2 Pe-2s were observed at the field. Between 6 and 6:30 a.m. on 3 June, [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] the number of aircraft at the field had increased to 10 jet bombers, 1 P-25, and 2 Pe-2s.

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3. [redacted] about 25 AA guns were observed on the west side of the western hangar prior to 30 May. [redacted] AA emplacements also allegedly existed on the east and south sides of the installation. On 30 May, six AA guns were observed in firing position on the northern boundary of the field. Twelve tents and one large tent, or a pile covered with a tarpaulin and a large red flag, possibly an ammunition pile, were seen near the guns. On 3 June, [redacted] gun drill 25X1 with two of these guns. About 20 men each were standing around the guns; the other four guns were covered with tarpaulins. (2)

4. There was no change in the status of the PKV-45 DF station on the western side of the field. The new building with two towers on the southeastern side of the installation, information on which was transmitted previously, appears to be a 25X1 boiler house, because smoke was observed emanating from one of the two towers.

5.

[redacted] observed Russian women digging communication trenches on both sides of the Schackendorf-Lichterfelde highway and the northern airfield boundary. (4) 25X1

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7. On 25 May, three type-27 and type-30 planes were observed taking off from the field.

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On 31 May, take-offs and landings were practiced. Type-27 jet bomber [redacted] landed at about 1 p.m. Between 31 May and 12 June, mostly take-offs and landings were practiced at the installation. Flying was rather light. About 1 p.m. on 12 June, two type-30 planes [redacted]

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[redacted] landed. [redacted] A third plane fitted with a rear gunner's station was also seen landing.

25X1 8. On 27 May, [redacted] a radio installation on the western edge of a small wooded area west of the V-turn of the road immediately north of Zuerchel. On 11 June, this installation was seen at the same place.

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[redacted] the radio installation was occupied by 10 men, who had arrived only a short time ago. [redacted] a sergeant was in charge of the radio installation, as the lieutenant in command was on leave. [redacted] a single wire line extended from the radio installation to the highway north of Zuerchel through Lieskau and then toward Schackendorf and the airfield. (5) On 12 June, a PKV-45 DF station and a radio truck [redacted] south of Nehesdorf.

25X1 9. On 12 June, [redacted] 12 AA guns emplaced at large intervals south of the Nehesdorf-Schackendorf highway, between triangulation point 113.8 and Schackendorf. The guns had a caliber of about 80 mm, and a tent was seen near each. (2) On 16 May, [redacted] observed a pig sty in the eastern hangar of the installation.

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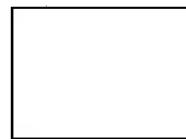
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11. On 31 May, 8 jet bombers, 3 twin-engine planes and 3 biplanes were observed at the field. On 6 June, two jet planes and one twin-engine plane conducted flying. Flying by four jet bombers was observed on 12 June. Between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on 13 June, there was heavy flying by jet bombers. Several planes were observed aloft at the same time. There was flying between 7 and 10 a.m. on 14 June.

12. On 20 May, 27 artillery pieces consigned to [redacted] arrived at the installation. Twelve more guns arrived on 22 May. (2) Between 20 May and 3 June, 11 railroad cars loaded with timber arrived at the Finsterwalde railroad station. The shipment was accepted by Soviet Captain Kosyak (fmu). On 30 May, six field kitchens arrived by rail for [redacted]. On 21 May, eight railroad tank cars loaded with 200 hectoliters of naphthalene each and consigned to [redacted] arrived at the field. (3) Other incoming or outgoing shipments observed at Finsterwalde during the period from 21 May to 12 June 1952 included [redacted]

for

[redacted] dispatch to Brest Litovsk on 21 May; 2 railroad cars loaded with flour for [redacted] Forststrasse, Finsterwalde, 1 of the cars was sent to the airfield on 30 May; 9 tank cars loaded with 200 hectoliters of naphthalene each, consigned to [redacted] and arriving at the Finsterwalde-South airfield, on 31 May; four fuel containers with an estimated capacity of 1,000 hectoliters each arriving at the fuel depot of the field on 1 June; 12 railroad tank cars loaded with 2,140 hectoliters dispatched by [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] in Velten in addition to two tank cars filled with 259 hectoliters of used oil, on 6 June; 13 boxcars dispatched from the Frankfurt/Oder border station loaded with military goods arriving at Finsterwalde on 7 June and forwarded to [redacted] Fuerstenberg on the Oder River on the same day; 1 boxcar arriving from Cottbus loaded with military goods and consigned to [redacted] on 11 June; on the following day, two-wheeled lift trucks such as they are used for the transportation of bombs in addition to aircraft cowlings were unloaded from this car, which, on 12 June was loaded with empty oil drums and dispatched to [redacted] Velten. 25X1 Other shipments observed included 8 railroad tank cars loaded with 2,175 hectoliters of naphthalene arriving from Riesa-Harbor and consigned to [redacted] [redacted] on 12 June; 8 empty railroad tank cars dispatched to Troeglitz near Leipzig, on 14 June. (6)

13. The leading administrative officer in charge of coal and general supplies at the Finsterwalde-South airfield was known as Teshikalin (fmu) phonetic spelling; the officer responsible for fuel shipments arriving at the field was one Breilovski (fmu) phonetic spelling. (7)

14. On 31 May, an AAA unit located at the field was emplaced about 500 meters north of the installation. Some of the employed guns were at the end of Hellemenstrasse. On 6 June, 36 trucks [redacted] [redacted] were seen at the entrance to the field on the Schackendorf side; 11 AA guns covered with tarpaulins and a 20-mm AA gun guarded by a sentry were also observed there. (2)

15. Sedan [redacted] was seen almost daily proceeding to or from the field. The sedan was driven by an officer, who wore gold epaulets with two silver longitudinal stripes and three small stars. (8) Another sedan frequently observed [redacted] was driven by an officer who wore blue epaulets with a large star. Trucks [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] and sedan [redacted] were also seen at the field.

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16. Between 9 a.m. and noon on 21 May, two P-25s made local flights. At 2:30 p.m., a type-27 jet bomber took off for a six-minute flight. Between 2 and 5 p.m. on 22 May, there was continuous flying by jet bombers in groups of two, the second plane flying in line with the elevator assembly of the leading plane, while the distance between the two planes was two wing spans. Take-offs and landings were made individually. There was no flying activity on 24 and 25 May. On 26 May, three jet bombers and three DC-3s were seen parked in front of the hangars. There was no flying on 27 May. On the morning of 30 May, the noise of flying jet bombers and conventional propeller aircraft was heard. At 1:30 p.m., a type-27 jet bomber took off; it landed again at 1:50 p.m. and then taxied to the western hanger. Another type-27 jet bomber took off at 2 p.m. to land again at 2:40 p.m. A jet bomber also took off at 3 p.m. Four jet bombers and three DC-3s were parked in front of the hangars. Between 2 and 5 p.m. on 12 June, [REDACTED] flying by jet 25X1 bombers from Finsterwalde.

17. There was no change in the status of the PKV-45 DF station. A radio truck with three guy wires and an antenna three or four times higher than the truck was observed 80 to 100 meters south of the installation. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] sizable amounts of boards were to be delivered at the field. On 28 May, an emplaced AA gun with an estimated caliber of 30 mm was seen at the northern edge of the landing field. On 12 June, 10 to 12 guns, probably AA guns, with barrels raised at an angle of about 70 degrees, were seen west of the western hanger. (2)

18. An ammunition dump consisting of 8 to 10 low wooden buildings was located about 300 meters south of the road to Schackendorf. The depot was guarded by sentries posted on observation towers and was lighted at night. (2) [REDACTED]

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19. There was no flying at the field at about 11 a.m. on 6 June. Four aircraft were observed on the landing field and 4 twin-engine planes at the southwestern corner of the installation. There was no change in the status of the PKV-45 DF station west of the installation and south of Nehesdorff. A transformer station was observed in the road fork in the northern section of Nehesdorff. A three-wire cable about 50 mm in diameter extended from the transformer station to the radio installation.

20. The road leading to the water reservoir on the north side of the field was blocked. A total of 19 circular tents was observed around this reservoir. Further to the south, there were 16 gun emplacements of which five were occupied by 76.2-mm AA guns. Three soldiers armed with submachine guns were seen in the area of the gun emplacement. (2)

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21. [REDACTED]

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(1) A swallow's nest-like blister was observed for the first time on a Li-2. It may contain a practice navigation instrument or it be a device for the fastening of a tow rope.

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(2) The credible statements [redacted] of the present report indicate that at least 39 AA guns arrived at Finsterwalde prior to 22 May. On 30 May, 25 of these guns were still parked west of the hangars, while 6 x 85 and 76.2-mm guns were emplaced south of the Nehesdorf-Schacksdorf highway on 30 May and 12 on 12 June. 25X1
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(3)

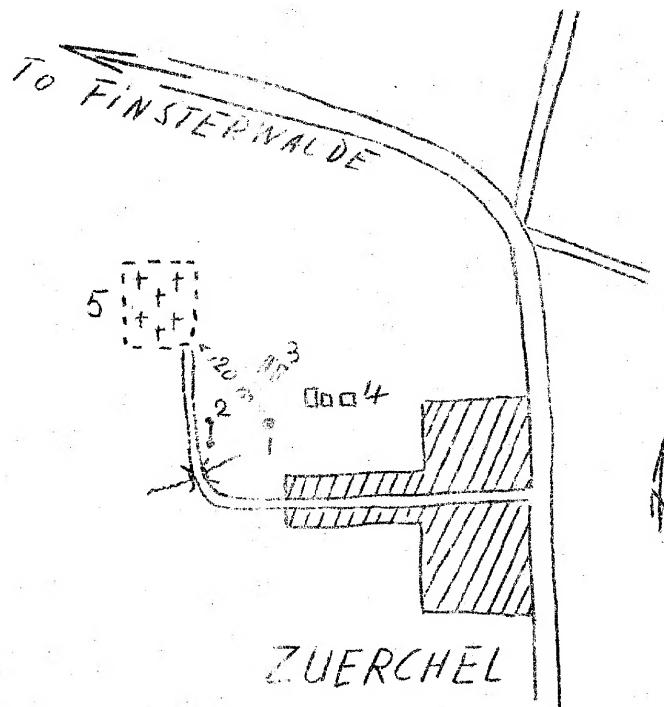
(4) Possibly additional AAA emplacements were being built there.
 (5) The location of this low frequency landing beacon was previously known. See sketch [redacted] Information on 25X1 the horizontal antenna of the type observed with this installation was received previously. All these antennas were located in line with the runway. Their purpose has not been determined. Sketch of the horizontal antenna of the type observed with this installation was received previously. All these antennas were located in line with the runway. Their purpose has not been determined. For sketch of the horizontal antenna seen at Finsterwalde, see Annex 1. 25X1

(6)

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(7) These names are reported for the first time.
 (8) [redacted] The service color or the officer riding this vehicle indicates that he was an army officer.
 (9) This ammunition depot located just north of the Nehesdorf-Schacksdorf highway was previously known.
 (10) The present report does not contain essentially new information on the air activity at Finsterwalde airfield. Pilots who are being retrained there with jet aircraft usually practiced take-offs and landings with 6 to 10-minute flights. However, formation flying in groups of two and three in V and echelon formations have also been observed occasionally. A total of 10 type-27 and type-30 jet bombers is believed to be stationed at the field. The Pe-2s previously observed there still participated in the flying activities at the installation.

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SECURITY INFORMATIONRadio Installation near ZuerchelLegend:

- 1 Outer low frequency landing approach beacon
- 2 Horizontal antenna (for details see sketch below)
- 3 Two underground bunkers
- 4 Three radio trucks
- 5 Cemetery

